

Five BPA employees joined a neighborhood team to compete in this year's dragon boat races on the Willamette River. The 12th Annual Portland Kaohsiung Dragon Boat Races took place June 10-11 during Portland's rose festival. The BPA paddlers joined the Let It Run mixed team that comes from the Beaverton area.

The team took its name, Let It Run, from the dragon boat command for paddles to come out of the water.

The core of the 22-member team is several neighbors and coworkers who have two and three years of experience as paddlers.

This year, four other BPA folks joined Becky Clark when she recruited paddlers at work for her neighborhood team. Fev Pratt and Fran Halpin work in the Power Business Line where Clark works. And two paddlers joined up from transmission – Jennifer Kinder and Richard Stone.

Clark says, "The boat weighs over 1,000 pounds and the team weighs over 1,000 pounds. Dragon boat paddling is a whole-body, team effort and a different skill than rowing a boat or paddling a canoe."

Let It Run began to practice on the river two and three times a week beginning in April. Sixty-two teams

competed in the mixed teams field and Let it Run finished in the top 16 on Saturday to move on. The team lost in the second tier semi-finals to some very fast boats on Sunday.

Besides the many neighborhood teams, several local year-round

paddle clubs competed for trophies. And some serious Canadian groups come to Portland to compete each year. The BPA paddlers all said

they got a workout this year, and that they would like to do it again.

Fev Pratt says, "Dragon boating was great fun. I especially liked the night-time practice on the river with Portland's city lights reflecting on the water." Pratt has since joined a club and is on a new team that now practices regularly.

"Our team had people with much experience and it was good to learn from them," says Richard Stone. He says the camaraderie of the teams and spectators made the event worth doing. "The worst part for me

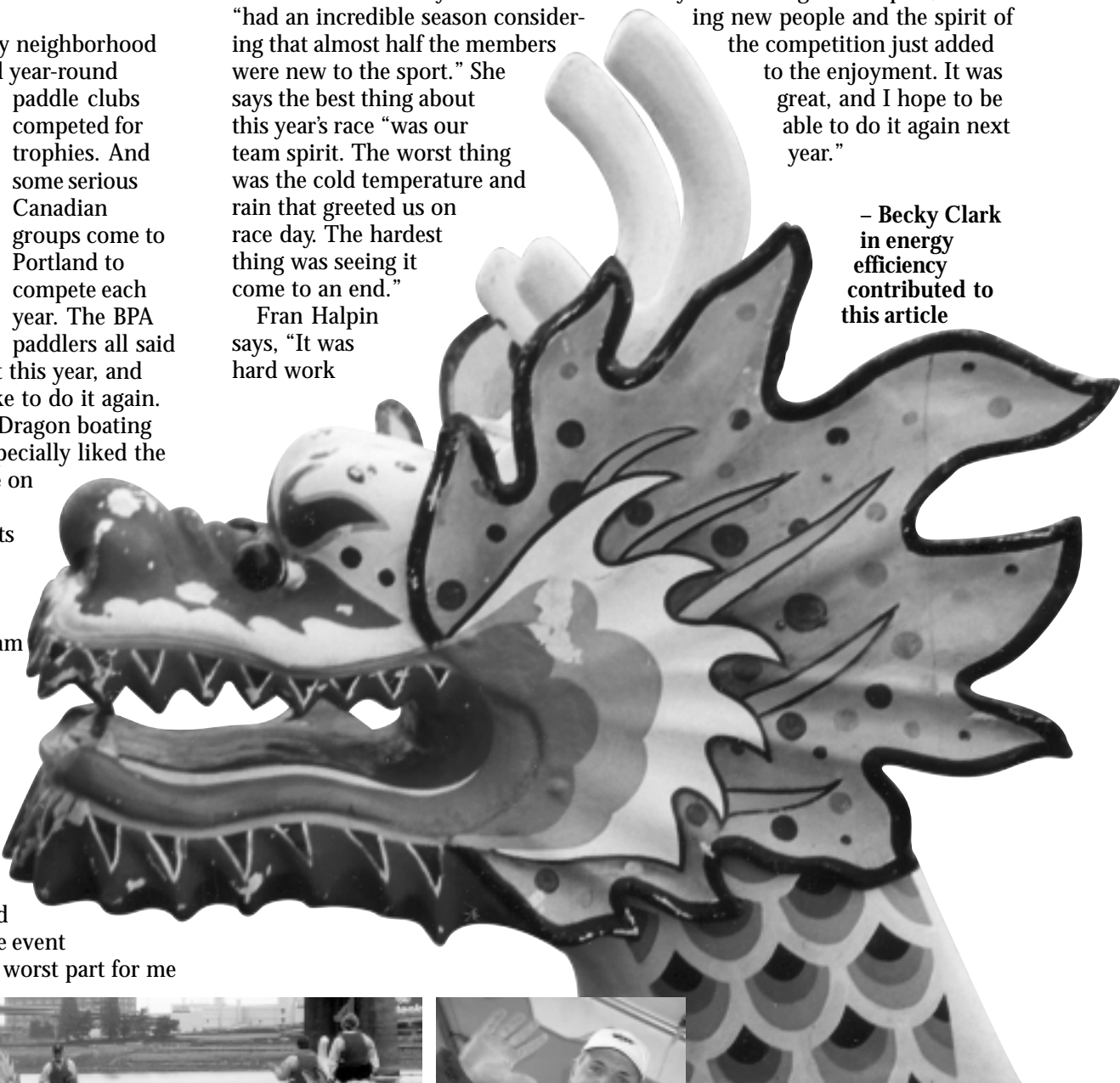
was the first practice," he says. "Then I looked forward to practices and the actual event. I am looking forward to next year," he says.

Jennifer Kinder says the team "had an incredible season considering that almost half the members were new to the sport." She says the best thing about this year's race "was our team spirit. The worst thing was the cold temperature and rain that greeted us on race day. The hardest thing was seeing it come to an end."

Fran Halpin says, "It was hard work

and we had some cold and wet evenings on the river. But the outdoors revitalizes me so I looked forward to our practices," Halpin says. "Learning a new sport, meeting new people and the spirit of the competition just added to the enjoyment. It was great, and I hope to be able to do it again next year."

– Becky Clark
in energy
efficiency
contributed to
this article



Photos by Becky Clark



Ready to row ... er, paddle, in the next dragon boat race. BPA paddlers wait in line at the Willamette River start area: (left to right) Jennifer Kinder, unidentified, Fev Pratt and Richard Stone. Becky Clark smiles as the Let It Run team with BPA paddle power leaves the dock loading area. Fran Helpin waves as she heads toward the start of a dragon boat race.



Gerald Lee gets congratulations from Adminrator Judi Johansen. The BPA chief presented Lee with his Fellowship Certificate from the Institute of Electrical Engineers (IEEE). Coworkers joined in Lee's recognition at the late September employee meeting at the Ross Complex.

Photo by Fred Elliott

Hickok gets second award



Chief Operating Officer Steve Hickok has received his second major award for civil service. On Oct. 5, DOE Secy. Bill Richardson announced Hickok's choice for a Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award.

The award is for Hickok's work at BPA in the mid-1990s. He led BPA's strategic planning on the heels of electric deregulation in 1992. He helped shape a new BPA to compete in the marketplace. He headed BPA's first sales and customer service group, and became the first head of the new Power Business Line.

"This is a great recognition for Steve and all of BPA," Administrator Judi Johansen said. "It recognizes how important Steve's leadership was when we created the account executives and focused on service to our customers. Those efforts helped lead to our success of the past eight years."

Less than 5 percent of people in the Senior

Executive Service get the meritorious rank award in any year. Hickok got his first rank award in 1992. Before that, he received the Secretary of Energy's Meritorious Service Award in 1984.

U.S. DEPT.
OF ENERGY
Bonneville
Power
Administration
-KCC-7
P.O. Box
3621
Portland,
Oregon
97208-3621

OFFICIAL
BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR
PRIVATE USE,
\$300

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PORTLAND, OR
PERMIT NO. 2462



Employees visited and toured the Celilo Converter Station in August. BPA held an open house to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the station. Celilo is the northern terminus of the 860-mile Pacific Northwest-Pacific Southwest DC Intertie. The direct-current line has a 3,100-megawatt capacity – one of the largest of its kind in the world. BPA and Los Angeles Water and Power exchange electricity over the big line.

Photos by Jack Odgaard